

Advent France Biotechnology



Three questions for Geoffroy de Ribains, operating partner at AFB and operating CEO at GAMUT Therapeutics, about SparingVision's acquisition of GAMUT Therapeutics

- **SparingVision has just announced its acquisition of GAMUT Therapeutics, a startup in AFB's portfolio. Can you tell us more about GAMUT's history?**

As part of our sourcing activities for innovative therapeutics projects, we started discussions with Dr Deniz Dalkara, PhD, team leader and ocular gene therapy researcher at the Institut de la Vision, in Paris, France. Her world-renowned work in ophthalmology proved to be a solid basis with which to create a biotech startup with promising perspectives and to begin pre-clinical studies. We also partnered closely with the Institut de la Vision (Paris, France) and other key partners such as the French tech transfer organization SATT Lutec. GAMUT Therapeutics was born: a biotechnology company pioneering a unique gene-independent approach in treating the later stages of Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP).

After only one year of activity, we have found in SparingVision the best possible partner to continue developing GAMUT's high-quality science. Further, we are delighted to see Dr. Deniz Dalkara, scientific founder of GAMUT, joining SparingVision as Chief Scientific Officer.

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- **Gene therapy in ophthalmology is gaining momentum in the healthcare industry. What's different in GAMUT's approach?**

GAMUT was founded to progress cutting-edge science into application as a gene therapy product for patients. GAMUT's approach enables the treatment of patients independently from the underlying mutation which causes the disease, allowing patients to recover full spectrum color vision, visual acuity and movie-rate vision without the need for an amplification device. Improvements to the vector create a safer sub-retinal administration procedure.

GAMUT also benefits from Dr Deniz Dalkara's extensive experience in ophthalmology and gene therapy research. Dr Dalkara has worked as a tenured researcher at INSERM since 2013, and as group leader at the biotherapeutics department, Institut de la Vision, Paris, France, since 2012. She was awarded the Euretina Science and Medicine Innovation Award in 2013 and MIT Technology Review's Innovators Under 35 award in its 2014 French edition.

- **How does GAMUT illustrate AFB's strategy?**

At Advent France Biotechnology, we are both entrepreneurs and investors: we identify promising therapeutic innovations and kickstart companies hand in hand with their scientific founders and academic institutions. GAMUT's story is the perfect example of our unique investment strategy: we identified Dr. Dalkara's work, met with her a year ago and convinced her and the Institut de la Vision to create a new venture with us. Together, we moved the project forward and began raising its profile; it immediately attracted interest from third parties. In a year, we managed to source a breakthrough scientific project from academic research and create a viable startup, now acquired by a key French player in ocular gene therapy.